

## Applicant statement Planning Committee - 19th July 2018

Proposed Change of Use - 18/501494/FULL

St. Saviour's Church, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8BD

Dear members of the Planning Committee,

Thank you for your visit on 9th July and we would like to refer to the items below in support of our application and to answer the objections raised.

Having listened to concerns, we would like to suggest that, if Members are minded to approve the application, that they do so for a **temporary period of three years**, so that we can be judged on what we have stated are our intentions in running this proposed community facility.

Our aim is to fully restore this beautiful and rare Grade 2 Listed Building and the café will help us to provide the funds to do so. Our proposals as a cultural centre will benefit the community's identity, involvement and build relationships. The café will bring profits back into the local community and help towards the economic development of the town by employing local people.

Romana Bellinger is the personal licence holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor and therefore takes the four licencing objectives to be of utmost importance and is fully committed to implementing these objectives in conjunction with the law and is subject to heavy penalties, the revoking of the licence and/or possible imprisonment if found to be in breach of:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

### Proposed activities and times:

- Café - 8am-5pm daily
- Art exhibitions e.g. paintings on walls - 8am-5pm daily
- Art residencies - Sanctuary Supported Living (our next door neighbours situated behind us) residents will use our space to create their own artwork - 10am-5pm daily
- Classical concerts - 7pm-10pm - monthly
- Storytelling and literary talks - 7pm-10pm - monthly
- Poetry and comedy - 7pm-10pm - monthly
- Food and drink tasting evenings - 7pm-10pm - monthly
- Craft and artisan indoor markets - approximately 4 per year

- **Objection:** *An off-licence will cause a problem in the neighbourhood.*

**Response:** We only intend to have very few craft and artisan indoor markets per year and we would restrict our off-licence to those times. It would include one or two specialist artisan sellers of alcohol as higher priced gifts.

**If people require cheaper alcohol they will obtain it from the nearby corner shop.**

- **Objection:** *For music to be potentially played from 8am till 11pm 7 days a week will blight the lives of the local residents.*

**Response: Our music events will stop at 10pm and will be approximately once a month. The style of music will often be acoustic based and contemporary classical music.**

- **Objection:** *No insulation, sound proofing or fire proofing*  
**Response: We live at the premises and we enjoy a peaceful home. We also have a Noise Management Plan in place that has been approved by SBC Environmental Health that limits sound levels. There are future plans to sympathetically insulate the building which will not affect its character and of course be subject to LBC approval. The necessary fire safety equipment will be installed in the building.**
- **Objection:** *Site location plan is obsolete: does not show three new houses directly to the west*  
**An up to date site location plan at 1:1250 was received by SBC Planning Department on 11th May at 15.36, within the deadline to produce documents in support of the proposal. Evidence can be provided at request.**
- **Objection:** *Ward member concerned about nearby sheltered housing residents. (Sanctuary Assisted Living)*  
**Response: The residents of Sanctuary Assisted Living support us and are working with us to produce an arts project that will be of benefit to the residents and the wider community. For confirmation please call Sanctuary Church House, tel. 01795 590856 James Durkin (Local Service Manager), Kerry Adams (Project Worker), Sally Francis (Project Worker).**
- **Objection:** *Member of the public concerned that she thought that St. Saviour's was a house.*  
**Response: St. Saviours has been a commercial building since 1970 and has been granted live/work status since 2014**
- **Objection:** *Ward member concerned with how long we intend to stay*  
**Response: We live at the premises and have no intention of moving.**
- **Objection:** *Ward member concerned with toilet facilities*  
**Response: We have in place a toilet that is adequate for our customers and have also applied for a further disabled toilet and refer to Listed Building Consent application 18/502720/LBC.**

As a part of Faversham Society's Open House scheme over recent weekends we have had much verbal and written support from our neighbours and the wider Faversham community which demonstrates a need for our proposals at this end of the town.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to ward members' and neighbours' concerns.

Yours faithfully

Romana Bellinger and Michael Eden